

The Occurrence of Trichocorixa reticulata in the Gulf of California

(Hemiptera; Corixiidae)

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During the course of ground observations in support of the NASA Earth Resources Satellite Program¹, plankton tow samples were taken in the delta region of the Colorado River at the extreme northern end of the Gulf of California. In one of these tows, a female of Trichocorixa reticulata (Guérin-Ménéville) was found.

While the occurrence of this species in both fresh and salt water has been noted previously (Williams 1944, Sailer 1946), its occurrence in ocean waters is interesting if not surprising. Williams found it in ponds more saline than the ocean, accounting for its success in colonizing habitats over a very wide area.

The locality where the specimen was collected is one of strong tidal currents produced by semidiurnal tides which can vary by as much as 9 meters between extreme high and extreme low. The water carries a very heavy silt load (standard Secchi disk visibility range is 2-15 cm. depth). Salinity has been measured as low as 37 and as high as 44 parts per thousand, depending upon tidal state and season (world normal salinity is about 35 o/oo, normal for the northern Gulf of California is about 37 o/oo). Accompanying the specimen in the plankton tow were the normal components of a marine plankton tow (copepods, arrow worms, jellyfish, marine fish juveniles, etc.). The specimen was swimming actively in the concentrated

(E73-10926) THE OCCURRENCE OF
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plankton sample when first noted.

Material examined: Mexico, Northern Gulf of California, Plankton Station D-4 at N. end of Isla Montague in Colorado River Delta ($31^{\circ} 49.0'$ N. latitude; $114^{\circ} 48.5'$ W. longitude) 16 December 1972, J. R. Hendrickson, 1♀.

References Cited

- Sailer, R. I. 1946. The synonymy and distribution of Trichocorixa reticulata (Guérin Ménéville), Proc. Haw. Ent. Soc. 12(3): 617-620.
- Williams, F. X. 1944. Biological studies in Hawaiian water-loving insects. Part V, Hemiptera or bugs, Proc. Haw. Ent. Soc. 12(1):186-196, figs. 8-16.

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